

[As the wing measured 141 mm. against 126 mm. in the ♂ from Bhavnagar and 125-138 mm. (average 133 mm.) in 5 specimens from Iraq, both the Indian birds were sent to Dr. E. Stresemann at the Berlin Museum, who has very kindly confirmed our identification.—EDS.]

## 12. NOTES ON SOME NEPALESE BIRDS

**Phylloscopus fulgiventor** (Hodgson). We have found this bird to be quite common in the Rapti Valley, the Dun country to the SW. of Kathmandu. It is found only along the edges of streams, where these have dense vegetation, grass or bushes along their banks. It frequents both tiny streams, a foot or so wide, with the grass meeting above the water, and the large slow-flowing rivers which are a characteristic of the grasslands of this Valley. I have seen them from Hitaura at 1200 ft. (c. 370 m.) to the banks of the Narayani River at 600ft., (c. 180 m.). The first time I encountered it I thought from its behaviour that it must be a bush warbler or even some kind of chat. It looks very dark in the field, keeps on or near the ground, and constantly utters a little 'Cht . . . cht'. I was quite amazed when my husband shot it, to find it was a *Phylloscopus*. Since then I have watched them many times. They are very easily observed on the larger rivers as they are not at all shy, and come freely out on to little islands, stones or pieces of driftwood in the river bed. They often flutter over the water, catching insects, and hovering for a minute above the water as they do so. On the larger rivers they are usually in pairs, but on the smaller streams often solitary, perhaps because here the food supply is less abundant. I have never seen them leave the rivers and they keep entirely to the vegetation growing within a couple of feet of the water. Where there are tall stiff grasses they will occasionally work their way up to 4 or 5 feet but usually they keep close to the water or the ground on its banks. There seem to be few records of this bird, and I was very surprised to find it so common locally. We generally spend a fortnight at Christmas in the Rapti Dun, so my observations are only for the last fortnight in December and first week of January. Since discovering its habitat I have never failed to find it on any suitable stream. I have never seen it in the Kathmandu Valley on migration, but there is no suitable country for it there. If it breeds at very high elevations in Tibet, it may travel down the great rivers, 5 of

which are united in the Narayani River, where it passes through the Duns at Naraingarh. We shot two birds which I compared with skins in the British Museum. I only saw a few skins but these appeared to be identical in colour with my specimens. Dr. Fleming, obtained a female at Bilauri in West Nepal (Rand & Fleming, *Birds from Nepal* : 165) but otherwise I know of no recent records. I see that Dr. Rand considers it as probably a race of *P. fuscatus*, a species I have never seen in central Nepal.

Both my birds are males. Wing formula 2=10. Wing measurements 53 and 54 mm. This seems rather small compared with Dr. Fleming's bird (60 mm.) and the measurements given in Dr. Ticehurst's GENUS PHYLLOSCOPUS.

I should be very interested to hear from anyone who has any information on this bird.

**Emberiza leucocephalos** Gmelin. The Pine Bunting. We found these birds quite common during the latter part of November in the hills along the Seti River, north of Pokhara in West-Central Nepal. They were in small flocks and of course in winter plumage. I have never seen them in the hills round Kathmandu, and suppose Pokhara to be about the eastern limit of their range.

**Haematospiza sipahi** (Hodgson). The Scarlet Finch. This bird is seen occasionally on the hills round Kathmandu in winter. Several sight records and we obtained a female on Sheopuri at 8000 ft. (c. 2440 m.) on 2nd February. All we have seen were in oak forest.

**Aethopyga ignicauda** (Hodgson). Firetailed Sunbird. The breeding range of this species and *A. nipalensis* never overlaps, as this bird breeds between 10,500 (c. 3200 m.) and 12,000 ft. (c. 3650 m.) and *nipalensis* never above 9000 ft. (c. 2740 m.). In winter they are found at the same elevations 4000-8000 ft. (c. 1220-2440 m.). During January and February when *ignicauda* is in eclipse *nipalensis* is the dominant bird. Flowers are rather scarce at this time, and I have watched the two species in flowering *Elaeagnus latifolia*, with *nipalensis* very aggressive, and *ignicauda* always giving way, retreating to a lower part of the tree, and finally leaving the area altogether, sometimes pursued a short distance by its rival. In March when *ignicauda* is in full plumage the situation is reversed, and it is the Nepal Sunbird which gives way, and generally leaves a tree in which it has been feeding on the arrival of *ignicauda*. When there is an abundance of blossom, as when the *Leucosceptrum canum* is in full bloom there seems to be no rivalry between the species, and flocks of both these

birds together with *A. saturata* and *A. siparaja* will feed amicably together in the same trees.

**Vanellus cinereus** (Blyth). The Greyheaded Lapwing. I can find no records of this bird in the Kathmandu Valley, but it is in fact quite a common winter visitor from the end of September to the end of March. Flocks of from 6 to 20 birds being usually found along the Manora River, feeding in old rice fields. A large proportion of the birds are usually immatures without the dark pectoral band.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
KATHMANDU,  
NEPAL,  
January 3, 1961.

DESIRÉE PROUD

### 13. SOME BIRD RECORDS FROM NORTHERN BURMA WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

Mr. Oliver Milton, a field associate of this Museum, made a long trip in Burma from November 1958, through December 1960, on behalf of a project known as the Burma Wildlife Survey sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of New York, the New York Zoological Society, the American Committee for International Wildlife Preservation and the Peabody Museum of Natural History of Yale University. During this trip Mr. Milton had the co-operation of the Burma Forest Department, and officials of the Burma Government throughout were the soul of courtesy and help as indeed they always are. It is very much to be hoped that Mr. Milton's arduous work which resulted in concrete recommendations to the Government of Burma for wildlife sanctuaries throughout the less encroached-upon and wilder portions of that wonderful country will eventually form the basis for an extension of the present park and reserved forest system. The larger mammals such as the rhinoceros are in great danger of following the European aurochs into oblivion. May the sad examples of neglect of animal species in other countries be heeded by the Governments of the nations of Southeast Asia.

Some areas of northern Burma are still very little known as far as the distribution of birds is concerned (*vide* Smythies, 1953) and I had asked Mr. Milton when he was in such areas to make some observations on birds and collect a very few specimens here and there which might add to the knowledge of the distribution of the Burmese